

Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01

ACDA-07 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 ARA-06 /082 W

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O 241012Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6867

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LISBON 2654

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PO

SUBJ: CAMPAIGN ENDS

REF: A. LISBON 2650 DTG 231743Z APR 76.

B. LISBON 2146 DTG 031235Z APR 76.

SUMMARY: FORMAL CAMPAIGN PERIOD ENDED MIDNIGHT APRIL 23
WITH FLURRY OF PARTISAN ACTIVITY AND SPORADIC VIOLENCE.
IN RECENT INTERVIEW PRIME MINISTER AZEVEDO EXPRESSED VIEW
THAT "INTERREGNUM" WOULD BE "HOT" AND STRONGLY HINTED AS TO
HIS AVAILABILITY AS A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE. CLANDESTINE ANTI-
COMMUNIST GROUP HAS CLAIMED CREDIT FOR APRIL 22 BOMBING OF
CUBAN EMBASSY. END SUMMARY.

1. CAMPAIGN ENDS: FORMAL CAMPAIGN PERIOD ENDED AT MIDNIGHT APRIL
23 WITH FLURRY OF PARTISAN ACTIVITY AND SPORADIC VIOLENCE.
PARTIES SPONSORED SEVERAL HUNDRED RALLIES AND OTHER EVENTS
THROUGHOUT PORTUGAL ON FINAL DAY OF CAMPAIGN AND REDOUBLED
POSTER AND LEAFLET EFFORTS, UTILIZING LIGHT AIRCRAFT FOR THIS
PURPOSE IN LISBON AREA. LONG MOTORCADES SNARLED LISBON'S
ALREADY CONGESTED TRAFFIC, PRODUCING SEVERAL FREE FOR ALLS
BETWEEN SUPPORTERS OF RIVAL PARTIES -- ONE IMMEDIATELY IN FRONT
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OF EMBASSY. MORE SERIOUS WAS EXPLOSION OF BOMB IN COIMBRA

HEADQUARTERS OF FELLOW-TRAVELLING PORTUGUESE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT (MDP). BLAST PRODUCED FOURTH FATALITY OF CAMPAIGN. ALTHOUGH SATURDAY IS OFFICIALLY DAY OF REST AND CONTEMPLATION BEFORE APRIL 25 VOTE, SOUND TRUCKS HAVE ALREADY BEEN SEEN IN LISBON AREA AND PARTY HEADQUARTERS REMAIN AT FULL STEAM.

2. AZEVEDO ON INTERREGNUM, PRESIDENCY: IN A RECENT INTERVIEW WITH OPORTO NEWSPAPER, PRIME MINISTER PINHEIRO DE AZEVEDO OPINED THAT PERIOD BETWEEN LEGISLATIVE AND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS WOULD BE AS "HOT" AS THE TURBULENT TWO MONTHS BETWEEN THE APRIL 1974 COUP AND THE FORMATION OF PORTUGAL'S FIRST POST-COUP PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT (REF A). THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, SHOULD REMAIN ESSENTIALLY INTACT UNTIL THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS TO AVOID THE CREATION OF A "POWER VACUUM." QUERIED AS TO HIS VIEWS ON THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE, PINHEIRO DE AZEVEDO ENUMERATED THE QUALIFICATIONS HE FELT THE NEXT PRESIDENT MUST HAVE, AND THEN PROCEEDED TO DESCRIBE HIMSELF IN VIRTUALLY THE SAME TERMS. IF THE PEOPLE WERE TO DECIDE HE FIT THE PRESIDENTIAL BILL, HE VOLUNTEERED, HE WOULD NOT REFUSE THE CALL.

3. CLANDESTINE GROUP CLAIMS CUBAN BOMBING: GROUP CALLING ITSELF PORTUGUESE ANTI-COMMUNIST MOVEMENT (MAP) HAS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR APRIL 22 BOMBING OF CUBAN EMBASSY IN LISBON. GROUP OF SAME NAME HAD EARLIER CLAIMED CREDIT FOR BOMBING-ASSASSINATION OF FAR LEFT CANDIDATE AND FOR OTHER BOMBINGS IN NORTH (REF B). FORMER PRESIDENT SPINOLA'S DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PORTUGAL (MDLP) STRONGLY REPUDIATED BOMBING AND THREATENED TO REVEAL IDENTITIES OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE IF THEY DID NOT DO SO THEMSELVES. GOP'S INVESTIGATIVE OFFICE ARE CONTINUING THEIR INVESTIGATIONS INTO INCIDENT.

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Message Attributes

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